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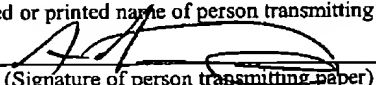
MAY 13 2004

**BLAKELY  
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(206) 292-8600 (Telephone) (206) 292-8606 (Facsimil )**OFFICIAL****FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET (TRANSMITTAL TO PTO)**

Deliver to: Examiner Stephen M. Baker  
Firm Name: U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Fax Number: (703) 746-7238 and (703) 305-3719 Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
From: Todd M. Becker  
Date: May 10, 2004 Time: 5:00 pm (pst)  
Operator: Adrian Villarreal Matter: 4524.P020  
Number of pages including cover sheet: 19 pages  
In Re Patent Application of: Ronald D. Stieger  
Application No.: 09/894,189  
Filed: June 27, 2001  
For: OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WITH VARIABLE ERROR  
CORRECTION CODING  
Enclosed are the following documents: \_\_\_\_\_  
Transmittal Letter (in duplicate) - 4 pages  
Amendment B After Final Rejection - 14 pages  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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05/01/03

Attorney's Docket No.: 4524.P020PatentIn re the Application of: Ronald D. Stieger  
(Inventor(s))AMENDMENT UNDER  
37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDUREApplication No.: 09/894,189EXAMINING GROUP 2100Filed: June 27, 2001For: OPTICAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEM WITH VARIABLE ERROR CORRECTION CODING

(title)

Mail Stop AF  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450SIR: Transmitted herewith is an **Amendment After Final Action** for the above-referenced application.

Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

XX **No additional fee is required.**

A Notice of Appeal is enclosed.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)	(Col. 3)
	Claims Remaining After Amd.		Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra
Total Claims	* 44	Minus	** 44	0
Indep. Claims	* 5	Minus	*** 5	0
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>First Presentation of Multiple Dependent Claim(s)</b>				

\* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

\*\* If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

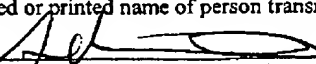
\*\*\* If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest No. Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

SMALL ENTITY	
Rate	Additional Fee
X9	\$
X43	\$
+145	\$
Total Add. Fee	\$

OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
Rate	Additional Fee
X18	\$ 0
X86	\$ 0
+290	\$
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\_\_\_\_\_ A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is attached for presentation of additional claim(s).  
\_\_\_\_\_ Applicant(s) hereby Petition(s) for an Extension of Time of \_\_\_\_\_ month(s) pursuant to  
\_\_\_\_\_ 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

\_\_\_\_\_ A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is attached for processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 02-2666 the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

X \_\_\_\_\_ The Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States  
Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees  
associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666  
(a duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed):

X \_\_\_\_\_ Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for presentation of  
extra claims.

X \_\_\_\_\_ Any extension or petition fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 5-10-04

Todd M. Becker  
Todd M. Becker  
Reg. No. 43,487

12400 Wilshire Boulevard  
Seventh Floor  
Los Angeles, California 90025  
(206) 292-8600

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**OFFICIAL****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Ronald D. Stieger

Serial No.: 09/894,189

Filed: June 27, 2001

For: OPTICAL COMMUNICATION  
SYSTEM WITH VARIABLE  
ERROR CORRECTION CODING

Docket No.: 4524.P020

Examiner: Stephen M. Baker

Art Unit: 2133

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**AMENDMENT B AFTER FINAL REJECTION**  
**37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

Sir:

This amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action mailed March 9, 2004, for the above-noted patent application.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner do the following with this amendment:

1. Please enter the amendments to the specification, if any, in section I.
2. Please enter the amendments to the claims, if any, in section II.
3. Please consider the amendments in sections I and II in view of the remarks in section III.

P020 - Amendment B (AF)  
BSTZ Seattle

- 1 -

Introduction